



What You Can Do!

Buy Organic, Local Food

It takes about 4,000 gallons of oil each year to transport the food that makes up the average American diet. Petroleum-based pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers also contribute to these emissions.

Use Cloth Bags When Shopping

If half the number of households in Bloomington stopped accepting plastic bags from stores, we would save nearly 695 tons of CO₂ per year!

Switch To Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Using highly efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs can reduce energy usage from lighting in your home up to 40 percent. You may also save money on your electricity bill!

Drive Less

Using alternative transportation such as walking, biking, carpooling or riding the Bloomington Transit twice a week can save as much as 1,590 pounds of CO₂ per year.

Compost

When food scraps, yard waste and other organic material decomposes in a landfill, it produces methane gas. Methane gas is nearly 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Buy Appliances With Energy Star Label

You can save up to 40 percent of energy usage by switching to Energy Star rated appliances. The bigger the item, the bigger the savings; switching to a high efficiency refrigerator can save as much as 220 pounds of CO₂ per year.

Wash Clothes In Warm Or Cold Water

By not using hot water for your laundry, you can reduce your carbon emissions up to 500 pounds per year.

Air-Dry Laundry

Drying clothes on a clothes line for six months of the year can save up to 700 pounds of CO₂ per year.

Contact Elected Representatives

Battling climate change in the United States is a bottom-up process. More than 40 million U.S. citizens are represented by cities that have signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Home Improvements

Are you planning to remodel soon? This might be a good time to upgrade your insulation, install a high-efficiency furnace or high efficiency windows. Look for tax credits when purchasing these items.

Audit Yourself

Maybe you do many of these things already. There are many personal emissions calculators online that will help show you how you can achieve the most reductions.

Educate Others

Ok, so you've done all you can but still want to keep reducing CO2 emissions? Tell your friends and neighbors about everything you've done and don't forget to tell them how much money you saved!

In order to meet the target of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the City of Bloomington needs to identify actions the community is taking in addition to the City's own efforts. Keep track of the actions you take to help stop climate change and report them to us. Please use numbers whenever possible, such as pounds of compost, number of miles *not* driven, number of compact fluorescent bulbs installed, etc. Look for our voluntary emissions reduction reporting forms in the near future. Visit the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability at www.bloomington.in.gov or e-mail sustain@bloomington.in.gov.

Thank You For Helping Us Make Bloomington Even Better!